

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

In the Claims

1. (Canceled) An assembly comprising:
 - (A) elongate columns each having a first end and a second end;
 - (B) a translating section disposed between the elongate columns generally equidistant between the first and second ends and interconnected to the elongate columns; and
 - (C) a flexure interconnecting each elongate column to the translating section.
2. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the elongate columns are essentially parallel to one another.
3. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a carriage that moves in the X-Y coordinate plane and reduces movement of the translating section in the Z direction.
4. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the Z direction is perpendicular to the X-Y coordinate plane.
5. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the carriage is substantially symmetrical.
6. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a rigid frame that supports the carriage.

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

7. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

- (1) upper cross members configured to connect the first ends of the elongate columns;
- and
- (2) lower cross members configured to connect the second ends of the elongate columns.

8. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flexure further comprises:

- (1) a first web formed by a first pair of opposed slots which are formed transversely and extend toward one another in each of the elongate columns;
- (2) a second web formed by a second pair of opposed slots which are formed transversely in each elongate column and extend toward the first pair of opposed slots in the same elongate column; and wherein the first web and the second web are arranged perpendicular to one another and spaced apart along the same elongate column.

9. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

- (1) a first piezoelectric assembly connected to the translating section, wherein the first piezoelectric assembly moves the translating section along a first linear path; and
- (2) a second piezoelectric assembly connected to the translating section, wherein the second piezoelectric assembly moves the translating section along a second linear path.

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

10. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 9, wherein each piezoelectric assembly further comprises:

- (1) a central coupler having a rigid section connected to a portion of the translating section;
- (2) at least one flexure connected to the rigid section; and
- (3) first and second piezoelectric elements, wherein the first piezoelectric element extends from each flexure toward the first end of the elongate column and the second piezoelectric element extends from each flexure toward the second end of the elongate column.

11. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 10, wherein each flexure interconnects each first and second piezoelectric element with the rigid section.

12. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of stiffening beams connected to the elongate columns.

13. (Canceled) The assembly of claim 6, wherein the rigid frame is stainless steel.

14. (Canceled) A carriage for micro-positioning comprising:

- (A) elongate columns each having a first end and a second end;
- (B) a translating section disposed between the elongate columns generally equidistant between the first and second ends and interconnected to the elongate columns;

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

- (C) a flexure interconnecting each elongate column to the translating section;
- (D) first and second piezoelectric assemblies connected to the translating section.

15. (Canceled) The carriage of claim 14, wherein the first piezoelectric assembly moves the translating section along a first linear path and wherein the second piezoelectric assembly moves the translating section along the second linear path.

16. (Canceled) The carriage of claim 14, wherein each piezoelectric assembly further comprises:

- (1) a central coupler having a rigid section connected to a portion of the translating section;
- (2) at least one flexure connected to the rigid section; and
- (3) first and second piezoelectric elements, wherein the first piezoelectric element extends from each flexure toward the first end of the elongate column and the second piezoelectric element extends from each flexure toward the second end of the elongate column.

17. (Canceled) A high resolution measurement device comprising:

- (A) a measuring instrument;
- (B) an assembly having a moveable carriage that supports the measuring instrument for movement therewith, wherein the assembly further includes elongate columns arranged parallel to one another, each elongate column having a first end and a second end;

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

- (C) a support structure securely carrying the assembly;
- (D) a translating section disposed between the elongate columns generally equidistant between the first and second ends and interconnected to the elongate columns;
- (E) a flexure interconnecting each elongate column to the translating section;
- (F) a first piezoelectric assembly connected to the translating section, wherein the first piezoelectric assembly moves the translating section along a first linear path; and
- (G) a second piezoelectric assembly connected to the translating section, wherein the second piezoelectric assembly moves the translating section along a second linear path.

18. (Canceled) The high resolution measurement device of claim 17, wherein the movable carriage is substantially symmetrical.

19. (Canceled) The high resolution measurement device of claim 17, wherein the distance between the first end of the elongate column and the translating section and the second end of the elongate column and the translating section is equal.

20. (Presently Amended) A translating section for allowing translational movement in an X direction and a Y direction while preventing any substantial movement of the translating section in a Z direction, the translating section comprising:

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

- (A) a frame having first and second mounting surfaces;
- (B) at least two actuators having first and second ends, wherein each of the actuators is extendable and retractable, and the first [[and second]] end of each respective actuator is attached to the corresponding first and second mounting surfaces of the frame respectively;
- (C) a center translation platform attached between the [[first and]] second ends of the actuators; and
- (D) a plurality of flexures, a flexure arranged between each of said second actuator ends and said center translation platform to allow translational movement of the center translation platform when the actuators extend and retract during scanning operation.

21. (Presently Amended) The translating section of claim 20, wherein each actuator further comprises a pair of piezoelectric elements equal in length [[, wherein each piezoelectric element is electrically connected to a power supply]].

22. (Presently Amended) The translating section of claim [[21]] 20, wherein [[the power supply energizes and moves each piezoelectric element]] a flexure is arranged between each of said first actuator ends and said first and second mounting surfaces of the frame.

23. (Canceled) A flexure carriage assembly comprising:

at least two symmetric and opposed actuators each having a first end attached to a frame and an opposed free end;

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

a platform interposed between the actuators;

a flexure coupled intermediate the platform and the opposed free end, the flexure being responsive to actuation of the actuators so as to facilitate translation of the platform in a first direction and simultaneously inhibit translation in a second direction.

24. (Canceled) The flexure carriage assembly of the claim 23, wherein the at least two actuators are substantially the same length.

25. (Canceled) The flexure carriage assembly of claim 24, wherein the at least two actuators have substantially equal translation range.

26. (Canceled) The flexure carriage assembly of claim 23, wherein an actuation control signal controls the actuation of the actuators.

27. (Canceled) The flexure carriage assembly of claim 26, wherein the actuation control signal applied to each actuator is the same.

28. (Canceled) The flexure carriage assembly of claim 23, wherein each actuator is mounted non-perpendicular to the platform.

Divisional of 10/164,460

VII/18DV

29. (Canceled) The flexure carriage assembly of claim 23, wherein each actuator is a piezoelectric device.